

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0893

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LE
SUBJECT: DEMOCRAT CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 032817

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF "CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRAT PARTY" BASED ON CONVERSATION BY EMBASSY SENIOR
LOCAL WITH ITS GUIDING LIGHT, MARONITE LAWYER MICHELE
GHORAYYIB.

2. GHORAYYIB, AGE 54, ORIGINALLY FROM DAMOUR, SAID HE
FOUNDED THE PARTY ON DECEMBER 29, 1977. IN THE PAST GHORAYYIB
HAS BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF DECONFESSIONALIZATION AND ONCE HEADED
A ONE-MAN PARTY CALLED THE "LAY DEMOCRATIC PARTY."
GHORAYYIB HAD LIVED IN EAST BEIRUT, BUT DURING THE 75-76 WAR
MOVED TO WEST BEIRUT AND BECAUSE AN ENEMY OF THE LEBANESE FRONT,
WHICH HE LABELED "FANATIC CHRISTIANS" IN SEVERAL STATEMENTS.

3. GHORAYYIB SAID THE "ORGANIZATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS"
HAS THE FOLLOWING AIMS: OPPOSITION TO CATEGORIZATION OF THE
LEBANESE PEOPLE ON THE BASIS OF CONFESSIONAL AFFILIATION;
ASSERTION THAT SOME CHRISTIANS REJECT CONFESSIONALISM, ASSERTION
THAT LEBANON IS PART OF THE ARAB ENVIRONMENT AND SHOULD REJECT
ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE LEBANON FROM THE ARAB WORLD; ASSERTION OF
THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL UNITY OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE; THE
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RETURN OF DISPLACED PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMES; A NON-SECRETARIAN
ARMY; BELIEF THAT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE IS A PAN-ARAB RESOLUTION
WHICH ALL ARAB PEOPLE ARE DUTY-BOUND TO SUPPORT; SUPPORT
FOR A NEW LEBANON BASED ON DEMOCRACY WITH A GUIDED ECONOMY AND
SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE; DEVELOPMENT OF THE
LEBANESE UNIVERSITY; AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, SOLUTION OF THE
PROBLEM OF SOUTH LEBANON BY STATIONING LEBANESE ARMY TROOPS

ALONG THE LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER.

4. COMMENT: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE "DEMOCRAT
CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION" IS ANOTHER OF GHORAYYIB'S ONE MAN
PARTIES AND WE DO NOT THINK IT IS LIKELY TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT
ROLE ON THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE.

PARKER

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